GLORY

AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

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AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

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COLOR SEPARATIONS
EXTREME COLOR

LETTERER
KURT HATHAWAY

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
BRENT BRAUN

EDITOR
ERIC STEPHENSON

CHARACTERS CREATED BY
ROB LIEFELD

EXTREME STUDIOS

CHERI LIEFELD
BUSINESS MANAGER

R. MATTHEW HAWKINS
PROMOTIONS & MARKETING

EXTREME COLOR IS
DONALD SKINNER • RON RIFE
BRENDA DONNELLY • ELIZABETH LEWIS
TANYA • JEFF VOELTNER
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LARRY MARDER
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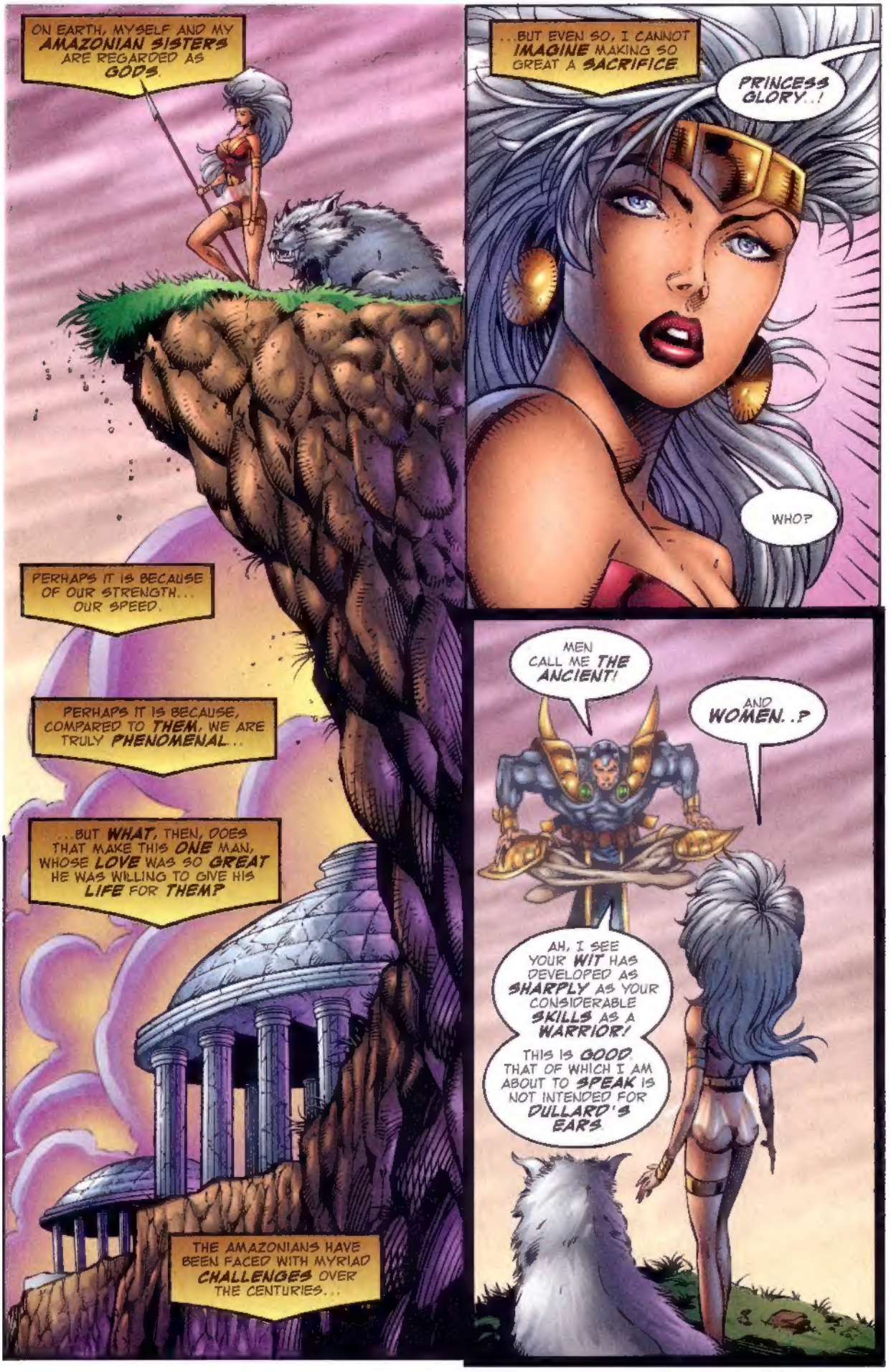
BEYOND THE SLIP, IN THE REALM OF MAN, TODAY MARKS THE BIRTH OF THE MOST SPECIAL OF ALL MEN.
IN THE LANGUAGE OF MORTALS, THIS DAY IS KNOWN AS CHRISTMAS...
...AND WHILE MY SOJOURNS TO THEIR WORLD HAVE BEEN INFREQUENT...
...I HAVE FOUND MYSELF ATOP THE HIGHEST POINT ON THE ISLE OF PARADISE, ALONE BUT FOR MY FAITHFUL CAT, THEODUS, PONDERING THE MEANING OF THIS DAY...
...AND THE MAN IT HONORS.
ROB LIEFELD-story & pencils
ERIC STEPHENSON-script
JONATHAN SIBAL-inks
CHRISTIAN LICHTNER-colors
KURT HATHAWAY-lettering


ON EARTH, MYSELF AND MY AMAZONIAN SISTERS ARE REGARDED AS GODS.
PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE OF OUR STRENGTH... OUR SPEED.
PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE, COMPARED TO THEM, WE ARE TRULY PHENOMENAL...
...BUT WHAT, THEN, DOES THAT MAKE THIS ONE MAN, WHOSE LOVE WAS SO GREAT HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR THEM?
THE AMAZONIANS HAVE BEEN FACED WITH MYRIAD CHALLENGES OVER THE CENTURIES...
...BUT EVEN SO, I CANNOT IMAGINE MAKING SO GREAT A SACRIFICE
PRINCESS GLORY..!
WHO?
MEN CALL ME THE ANCIENT!
AND WOMEN..?
AH, I SEE YOUR WIT HAS DEVELOPED AS SHARPLY AS YOUR CONSIDERABLE SKILLS AS A WARRIOR!
THIS IS GOOD. THAT OF WHICH I AM ABOUT TO SPEAK IS NOT INTENDED FOR DULLARD'S EARS.

THE TIME IS COMING, CHILD, WHEN YOU WILL FORSAKE THE PLACE OF YOUR BIRTH FOR THE WORLD OF MAN.
IT IS ON THAT PLANE WHERE YOU WILL BE PUT TO A MIGHTY TEST.
I CANNOT NOW SAY EXACTLY WHAT FORM THAT TEST WILL TAKE... BUT KNOW THAT IT IS COMING.
THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE TO WARN YOU, FOR I, MYSELF, MUST PARTICIPATE IN A MOMENTOUS UNDERTAKING.
TIME, EVEN NOW, DRAWS SHORT FOR ME.
BUT HOW WILL I KNOW..?
YOUR SENSES WILL TELL YOU WHEN YOUR TIME COMES AND YOU CANNOT DENY THEM.
EVEN AMONG YOUR KIND, PRINCESS, YOU ARE SPECIAL.
BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND..!
PERHAPS NOT...BUT YOU WILL IN TIME.

"DAYS LOSE THEIR NAMES AND TIME SLIPS AWAY, PRINCESS.
"YOU WOULD DO WELL TO MARK MY WORDS!"
AND MARK THEM I SHALL.
FOR JUST AS THIS DAY GAVE BIRTH TO A MAN OF GREAT PURPOSE...
SO, TOO, HAS IT INSTILLED ME WITH A CURIOSITY FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD.
IS THIS TEST THE ANCIENT SPOKE OF THE PRECURSOR OF A GLORIOUS NEW AGE WHERE AMAZONIANS AND MEN WALK THE SAME PLANE...
...OR A PORTENT OF DESTRUCTION FOR US ALL?

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

OKAY, IT'S MY TURN, RIGHT?
RIGHT, SO I'LL JUST ROLL THE OL--
KNOCK IT OFF, RUBBLE!
IT'S FUSION'S TURN.
UMMM, YEAH--JUST GIVE ME A SECOND, WILL YA?
I NEED TO CONSIDER ALL MY OPTIONS..!
THE CLOCK'S TICKING, MR. TRUMP!

a christmas tale brought to you by...

STEPHENSON & NAUCK

WITH ROBERT LACKO • INKS
LAURA RHODE • COLORS

EXTREME COLOR • SEPARATIONS
KURT HATHAWAY• LETTERS

C'MON, BABY--HERE GOES!
OH, YEAH!
FIVE... SIX... SEVEN...
CRAP.
I'M FLAT BUSTED!
THIS GAME SUCKS!
THANKS FOR THE FREE PARKING!
THIS CHRISTMAS SUCKS.
YOU THINK?
THIS IS THE MOST FUN I'VE EVER HAD AT THE HOLIDAYS.
NOT ME, MAN!
CHRISTMAS WAS ALWAYS ROCKIN' WHEN I LIVED IN THE HOOD!
I NEVER HAD MUCH OF A CHRISTMAS WHILE I WAS IN THE YOUNGBLOOD TRAINING PROGRAM.
I WAS TOO BUSY... TRAINING.
I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE FROM CONNEC-TICUT?
YEAH, WELL, Uh... THEY'VE GOT HOODS THERE...
I THINK.
RUCKUS
WHAT ABOUT YOU, THOUGH?
YOU MEAN ME AND CHRIST-MAS?

BOTH OF MY PARENTS WERE BUDDHISTS...
...SO WE NEVER REALLY CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS.
THEY KINDA RIPPED ME OFF!
YEAH, WELL, I'LL MAKE ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS DREAMS COME TRUE, BABY!
REALLY, RUBBLE...YOU'RE SO..BASE.
I MEAN, SO MANY PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK THAT CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT MONEY --SPENDING IT, MAKING IT--
--TAKING IT AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHO HARDLY HAVE IT--!
EVERYONE'S PRIORITIES ARE JUST PLAIN WRONG, IT SEEMS.
COOL, WYLDER--I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO FEEL THAT WAY!
IT'S NICE TO KNOW SOMEONE CARES ABOUT MORE THAN THE COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF THE HOLIDAY!
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
I'M JUST SAYING PEOPLE NEED TO BE MORE HONEST WITH THEMSELVES!
WHY JUST USE ONE DAY TO RAPE AND PILLAGE THE POOR?

THAT'S A GREAT ACT YOU'VE GOT GOING, WYLDER.
YOU KNOW JUST AS WELL AS I DO, THAT IF YOU FELT THAT WAY ABOUT CHRISTMAS YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE WITH US TONIGHT.
CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR ALL PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW DIVERSE THEIR BACKGROUNDS, TO SHARE IN THE PEACE AND JOY OF THE SEASON.
IT'S A TIME TO SPEND AT HOME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS...
...EVEN IF HOME HAPPENS TO BE THE TOTALLY LAST PLACE YOU EVER IMAGINED BEING.
LIKE HERE, HUH?
YES, RUBBLE, LIKE HERE.
SO, HEY, WHAT ABOUT OUR MONOPOLY?
FORGET THAT! I WANNA SING!
OH, BROTHER!

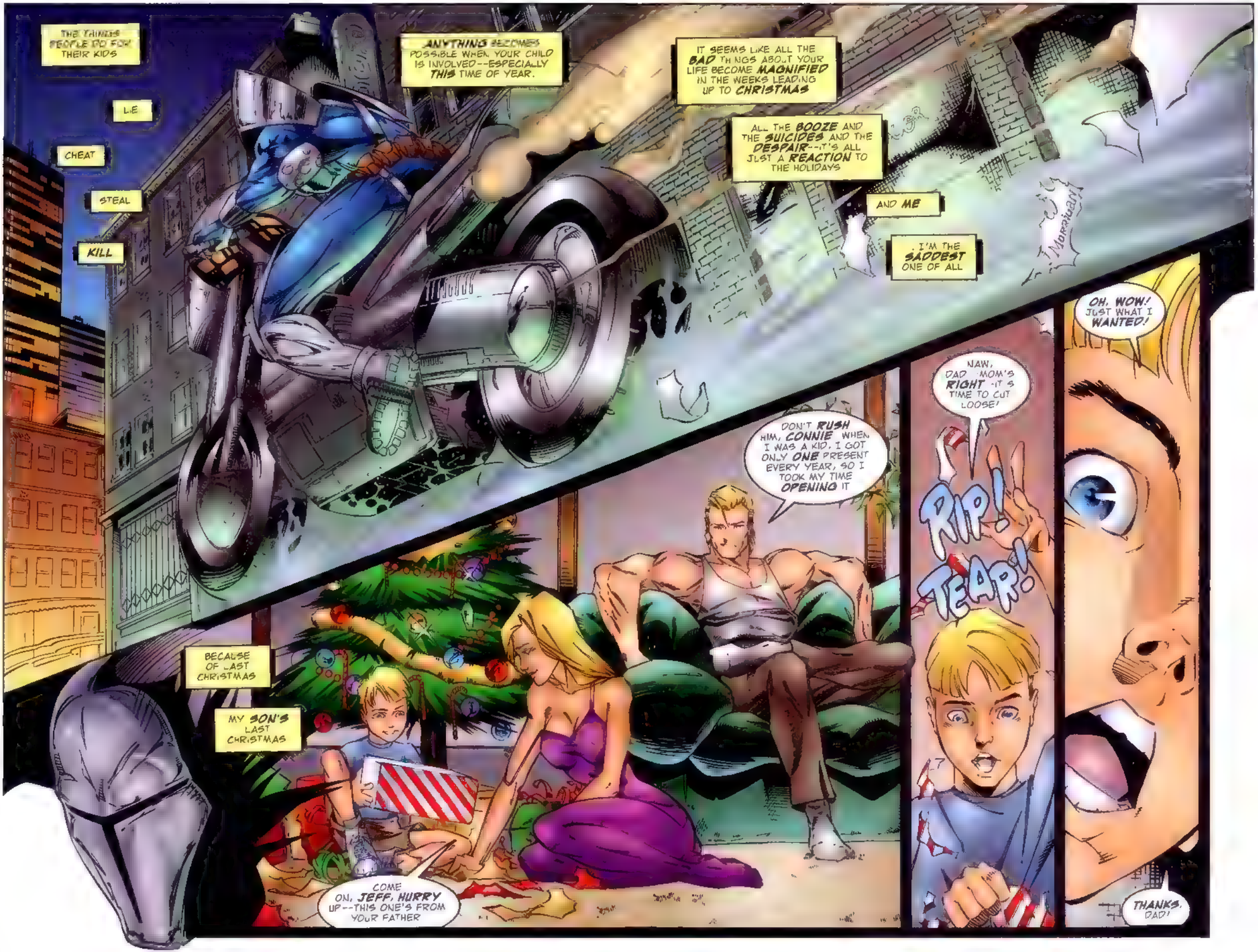
CRUZ 95

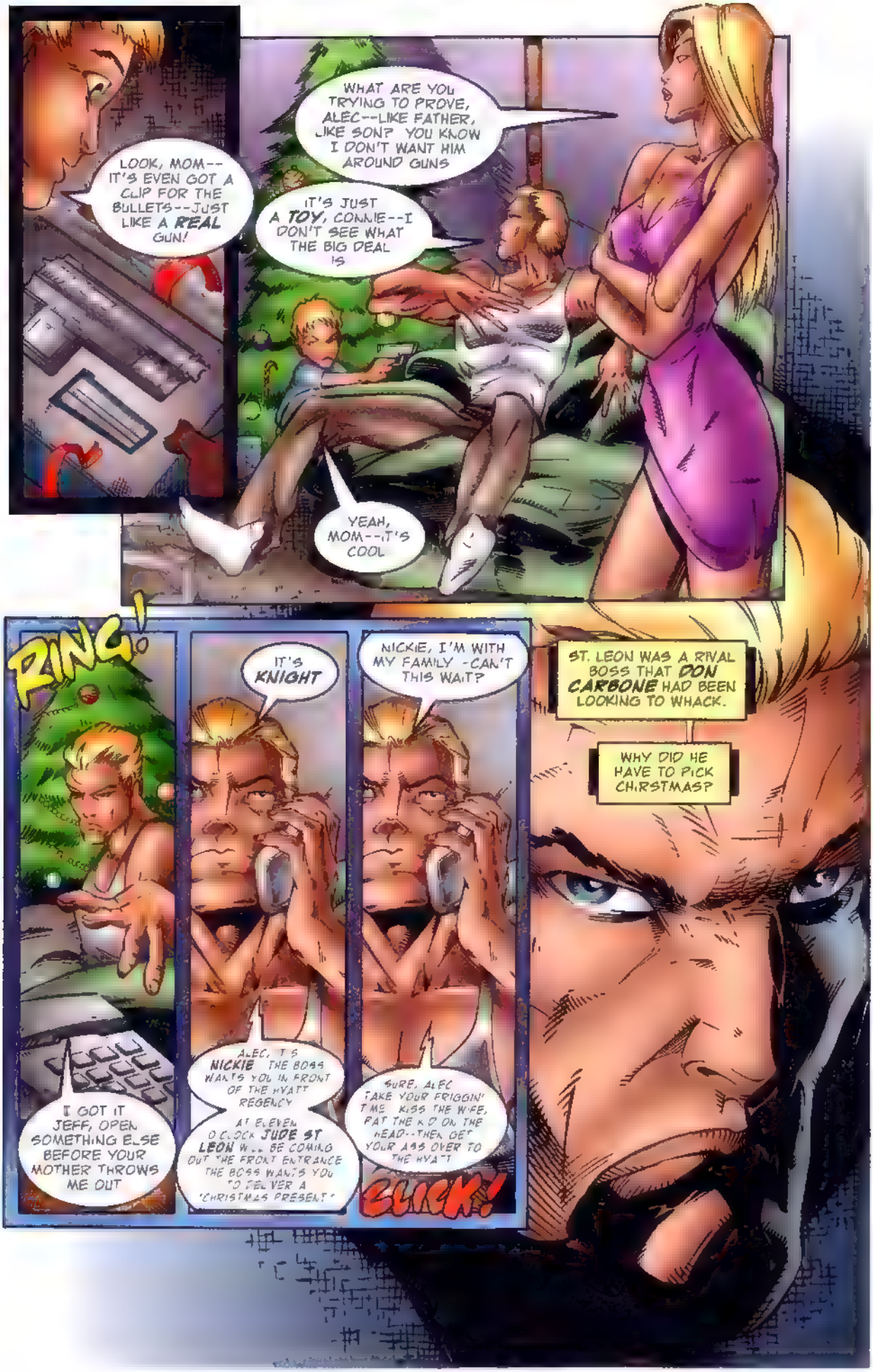
KS
SIFF

MY CITY IN DECEMBER
NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT.
STORY
ROBERT NAPTON
PENCILS
J. MORRIGAN
INKS
DANNY MIKI
& SEAN PARSONS
COLORS
LAURA RHODE
THE SNOW COMES POURING DOWN AND MIXES WITH THE SPIT AND CRUD AND TURNS THE SIDEWALKS INTO SLIME
THE PUNKS COME OUT AND PREY ON THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS WHO ARE TOO BUSY SPENDING THEIR MONEY TO NOTICE THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO BECOME YULETIDE STATISTICS
. BECAUSE MY CITY DESERVES BETTER
BUT THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
TO BALANCE THE SCALES
I DESERVE BETTER

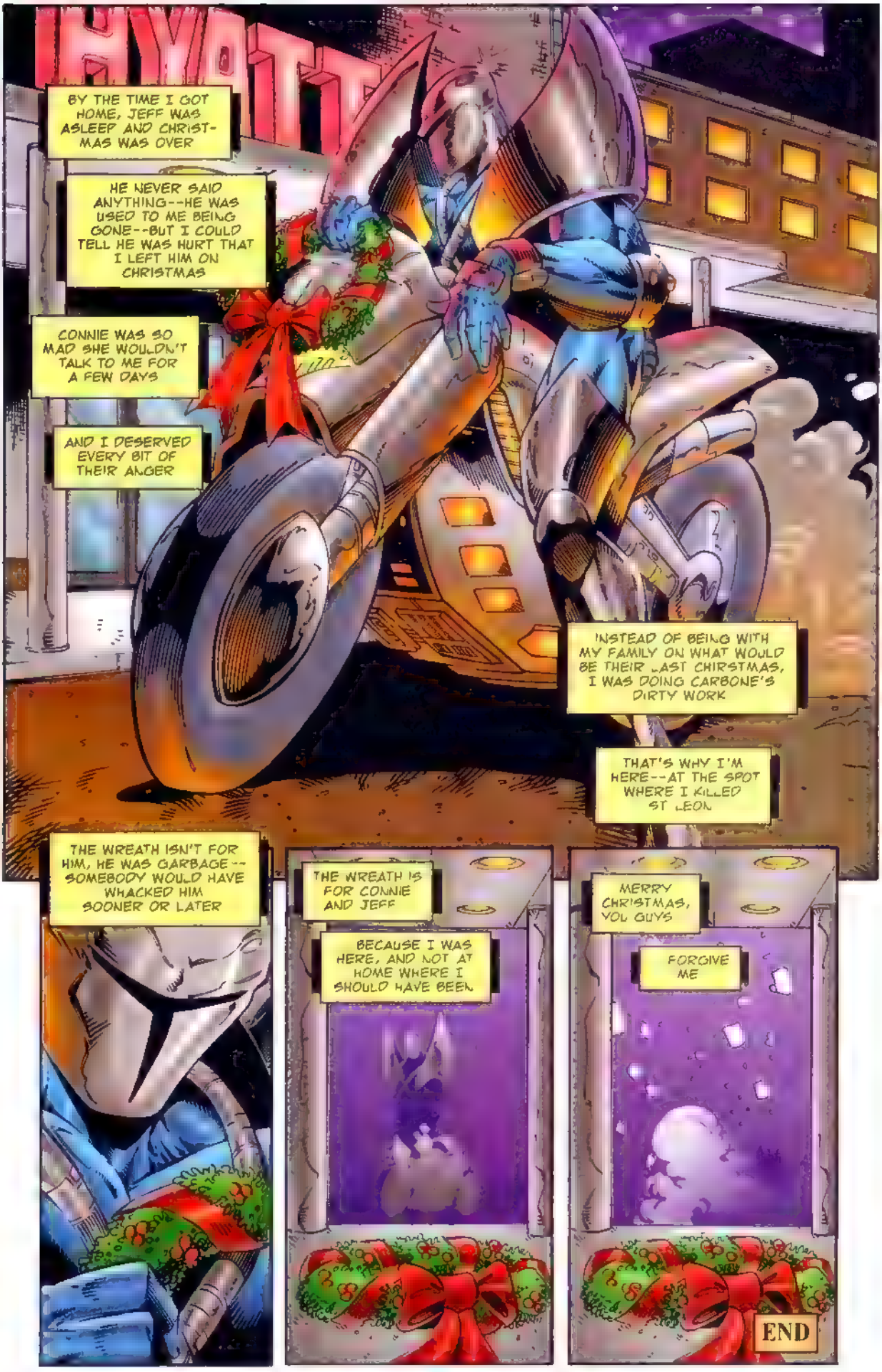
CASE IN PO NT
HERE WE HAVE A PUNK WHO WANTS TO PLAY "STICK 'EM UP" WITH THE OWNER OF THAT DELI
THEY'RE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING
GIVE ME ALL THE $%*$IN' MONEY OR YOU'RE DEAD!
OKAY, OKAY--JUST LEAVE ME ALONE TAKE IT--TAKE IT ALL!
WAK!
NNGH!
MY HAND-- HUH?!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
HE'S BEEN CASING THE JOINT FOR AN HOUR-- TRYING TO BUILD UP THE GUTS TO MAKE HIS MOVE
HE'S AN AMATEUR ONLY DONE A COUPLE OF JOBS, IF ANY
BUT IT'S THE INEXPERIENCED ONES THAT ARE DANGEROUS THEY DON'T KNOW THE RULES
YOUR VERY OWN "KNIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS!"
THUD!

DON'T KILL ME, MAN--DON'T KILL ME! I NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE--I JUST NEEDED THE MONEY FOR MY BABY!
BUT IF I EVER CATCH YOU AGAIN--
AND I'M ONE OF SANTA'S ELVES!
SWEAR TO GOD, MAN. HERE'S A PICTURE OF ME AND MY KID I GOT LAID OFF LAST MONTH--I JUST NEEDED MONEY FOR FOOD
CUTE KID
TH-THANKS
PLEASE, MAN--IT'S CHRISTMAS --I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN, I SWEAR TO GOD!
YOU WON'T, I PROMISE--YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN!
HE MEANS IT
ALL RIGHT--GO HOME TO YOUR CHILD
THE TREMBLE IN HIS VOICE TELLS THE WHOLE STORY I'VE GIVEN HIM A SECOND CHANCE AND HE'S GOING TO MAKE GOOD ON HIS PROMISE


THE THINGS PEOPLE DO FOR THEIR KIDS
LIE
CHEAT
STEAL
KILL
ANYTHING BECOMES POSSIBLE WHEN YOUR CHILD IS INVOLVED--ESPECIALLY THIS TIME OF YEAR.
IT SEEMS LIKE ALL THE BAD THINGS ABOUT YOUR LIFE BECOME MAGNIFIED IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS
ALL THE BOOZE AND THE SUICIDES AND THE DESPAIR--IT'S ALL JUST A REACTION TO THE HOLIDAYS
AND ME
I'M THE SADDEST ONE OF ALL
Morpheus
BECAUSE OF LAST CHRISTMAS
MY SON'S LAST CHRISTMAS
COME ON, JEFF, HURRY UP--THIS ONE'S FROM YOUR FATHER
DON'T RUSH HIM, CONNIE WHEN I WAS A KID, I GOT ONLY ONE PRESENT EVERY YEAR, SO I TOOK MY TIME OPENING IT
NAW, DAD MOM'S RIGHT -IT'S TIME TO CUT LOOSE!
RIP! TEAR!
OH, WOW! JUST WHAT I WANTED!
THANKS, DAD!


LOOK, MOM--IT'S EVEN GOT A CLIP FOR THE BULLETS--JUST LIKE A REAL GUN!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE, ALEC--LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON? YOU KNOW I DON'T WANT HIM AROUND GUNS
IT'S JUST A TOY, CONNIE--I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS
YEAH, MOM--IT'S COOL
RING!
I GOT IT JEFF, OPEN SOMETHING ELSE BEFORE YOUR MOTHER THROWS ME OUT
IT'S KNIGHT
ALEC, IT'S NICKIE THE BOSS WANTS YOU IN FRONT OF THE HYATT REGENCY AT ELEVEN O CLOCK JUDE ST LEON WILL BE COMING OUT THE FRONT ENTRANCE THE BOSS WANTS YOU TO DELIVER A "CHRISTMAS PRESENT"
NICKIE, I'M WITH MY FAMILY -CAN'T THIS WAIT?
SURE, ALEC TAKE YOUR FRIGGIN' TIME KISS THE WIFE, PAT THE K-9 ON THE HEAD--THEN GET YOUR ASS OVER TO THE HYATT
CLICK!
ST. LEON WAS A RIVAL BOSS THAT DON CARBONE HAD BEEN LOOKING TO WHACK.
WHY DID HE HAVE TO PICK CHRISTMAS?

EVERY NIGHT ST LEON HOOKED UP WITH A HIGH PR.CED "DATE" AT THE REGENCY NAMED VERONICA
HE KEPT A PRECISE TIME TABLE
TOO PRECISE
OKAY, BOYS-- LET'S GO I GOTTA KEEP THE WIFE HAPPY-- MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT THE HOUSE
I LOVE THE HOLIDAYS, DON'T YOU, GUYS? EVERYONE'S SO GIVING--ESPE- CIALLY VERONICA
ST LEON?
DON CARBONE HOPES YOU HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
BOOM!
BLAM! BLAM!
THEY NEVER EVEN KNEW WHAT HIT THEM.


BY THE TIME I GOT HOME, JEFF WAS ASLEEP AND CHRISTMAS WAS OVER
HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING--HE WAS USED TO ME BEING GONE--BUT I COULD TELL HE WAS HURT THAT I LEFT HIM ON CHRISTMAS
CONNIE WAS SO MAD SHE WOULDN'T TALK TO ME FOR A FEW DAYS
AND I DESERVED EVERY BIT OF THEIR ANGER
INSTEAD OF BEING WITH MY FAMILY ON WHAT WOULD BE THEIR LAST CHIRSTMAS, I WAS DOING CARBONE'S DIRTY WORK
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE--AT THE SPOT WHERE I KILLED ST LEON
THE WREATH ISN'T FOR HIM, HE WAS GARBAGE--SOMEBODY WOULD HAVE WHACKED HIM SOONER OR LATER
THE WREATH IS FOR CONNIE AND JEFF
BECAUSE I WAS HERE, AND NOT AT HOME WHERE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
MERRY CHRISTMAS, YOU GUYS
FORGIVE ME
END

IT'S A FEW DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND KEEVER HAS SENT ME TO A VERY REMOTE WINTER WONDERLAND
ANTARCTICA
TWO DAYS AGO, AN AUTOMATIC DISTRESS SIGNAL CAME FROM A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN STATIONED OUT HERE FOR OVER A YEAR
KEEVER WOULDN'T EVEN TELL ME WHAT THEY'RE DOING UP HERE--I'M SUPPOSED TO LOCATE THEM AND FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED--WITHOUT ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS
A TYPICAL DAY'S WORK FOR A MEMBER OF YOUNGBLOOD
HELLO--DR DIXON, DR PRICE, OR ELLROY?! IS ANYONE HERE?
DR FORD?
NOTHING SEEMS OUT OF THE ORDINARY

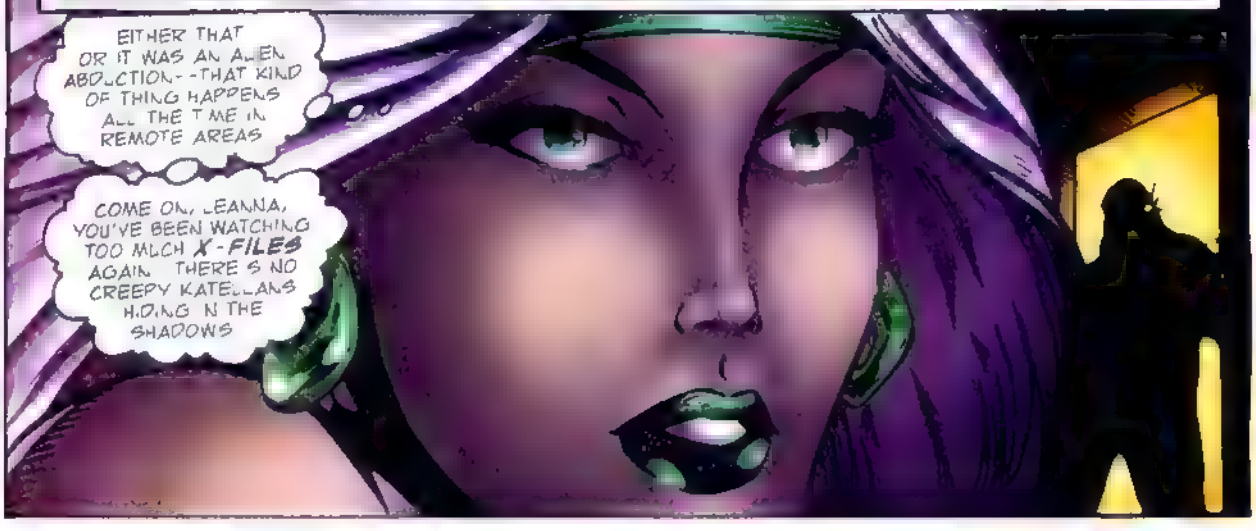
WHOEVER LEFT HERE, DID SO IN A HURRY. THEY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO SHUT DOWN THE SYSTEM
MAYBE THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT--THEY GOT CAUGHT IN AN AVALANCHE OR SOMETHING

STORY
ROBERT NAPTON

PENCILS
BRIAN DENHAM

INKS
MIKI, SIBAL, ALQUIZA & RAPMUND

COLORS
LAURA RHODE


EITHER THAT OR IT WAS AN ALIEN ABDUCTION--THAT KIND OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN REMOTE AREAS
COME ON, JEANNA, YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO MUCH X-FILES AGAIN. THERE'S NO CREEPY KATELLANS HIDING IN THE SHADOWS

OKAY, BUSTER - HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
DR. DIXON?!
LATER
YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE OKAY, DOC?
I'M AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED, RIPTIDE, THANK YOU
I MUST ADMIT, THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN QUITE AN ORDEAL I HAD GIVEN UP ANY HOPE OF RESCUE
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
TWO DAYS AGO, DR PRICE WAS ATTACKED BY SOMETHING WE WE'RE IN THE LAB WORKING WHEN WE HEARD HIM SCREAM
WE RAN OUTSIDE, BUT WE ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE CREATURE THAT ABDUCTED H M

CREATURE?
YES IT'S UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE SEEN BEFORE IT'S HUGE MONSTROUS AFTER PRICE DISAPPEARED WE DREW LOTS TO SEE WHO WOULD GO LOOKING FOR HIM--WE FELT SOMEONE SHOULD STAY BEHIND IN CASE HELP SHOWED UP
SO FORD AND ELLROY WENT LOOKING FOR HIM--BUT THEY NEVER CAME BACK
THEY MUST BE DEAD
POSSIBLY EACH OF US HAD A TRANSPONDER SEWN INTO OUR CLOTHES--IN CASE WE GOT SEPARATED FROM THE CABIN
THEIR TRANSPONDERS ARE STILL GIVING OFF A SIGNAL--THEY MAY BE DEAD, BUT AT LEAST WE CAN FIND THEIR BODIES
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, DOC?
LET'S SEE IF THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN REALLY EXISTS

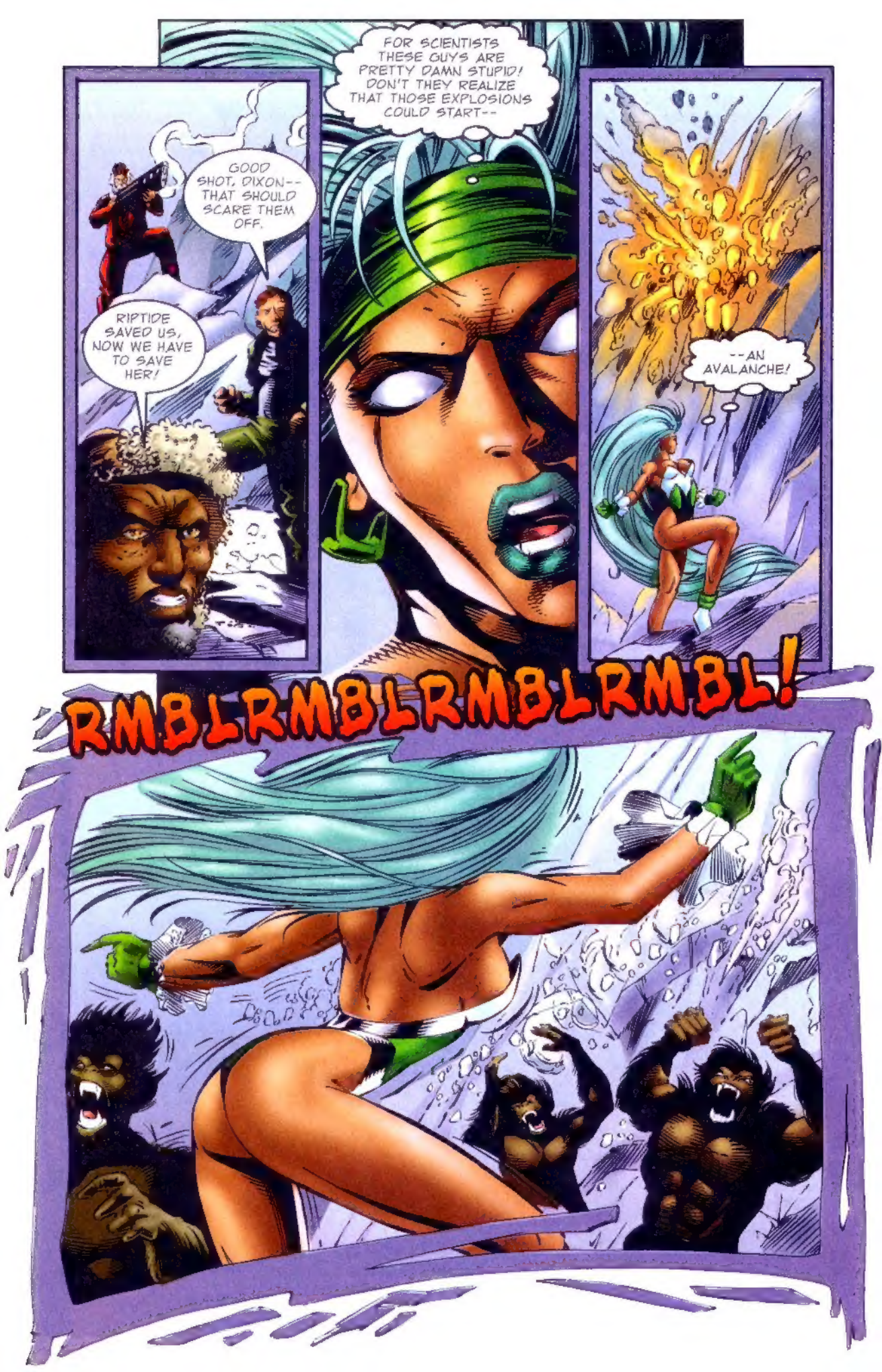
SHORTLY
ACCORDING TO THE BLIPS, THE TRANSPONDERS SHOULD BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS RIDGE
I HAVEN'T CLIMBED LIKE THIS IN YEARS
RIPTIDE-- CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?
UH, DOC, YOU'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
I THINK WE'VE FOUND YOUR KIDNAPPERS
GOOD LORD! I KNEW IT - THEY RE ORGANIZED INTO A PRIMITIVE SOCIETY
ARRRG!
RRRRRGG!
FORGET IT, DOC I GUESS THEY DIDN'T LIKE BEING SPIED ON
THE TRANSPONDERS ARE INSIDE ONE OF THOSE ICE STRUCTURES I'M GONNA HAVE A LOOK SEE--YOU STAY HERE
LET ME GUESS, YOU WERE SENT HERE TO OBSERVE THEM-- RIGHT?
I'M SORRY, RIPTIDE, I WANTED TO TELL YOU, BUT KEEVER

ACCORDING TO THE BLIPS, THEY SHOULD BE INSIDE THIS ONE
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS EXTRACT THE MOISTURE FROM THE ICE--
SPWSH!
--AND MAKE MY OWN DOOR
OH, NO!
ARE WE TOO LATE?
MINUTES LATER
THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE I GET THE FEELING WE WERE BEING STORED FOR LATER CONSUMPTION
WE'D BETTER GET OUT--

REEARGH!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MOVE IT UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE CHRISTMAS DINNER!
STICKING THEM WITH ICE PROJECTILES SHOULD GET THEIR ATTENT ON!
SHAK!
RRRR
RRRR

AARRGGH!
OKAY, LEANNA, QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD--
--AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE MORE OF THE CLAN SHOWS UP
FWSH!
TOO LATE!
MAYBE I CAN LOSE THEM IN HERE!

OH MY GOSH!
"THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN!"
KA-BOOM!
NOW WHAT?!
I HOPE MY SCIENTIST FRIENDS AREN'T DOING WHAT I THINK THEY'RE DOING.


FOR SCIENTISTS THESE GUYS ARE PRETTY DAMN STUPID! DON'T THEY REALIZE THAT THOSE EXPLOSIONS COULD START--
GOOD SHOT, DIXON-- THAT SHOULD SCARE THEM OFF.
RIPTIDE SAVED US, NOW WE HAVE TO SAVE HER!
--AN AVALANCHE!
RMBLRMBLRMBLRMBL!

OH MY GOD! THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN!
THEY'LL BE BURIED ALIVE UNLESS I DO SOMETHING!
I HOPE THIS WORKS!
"LOOK, DIXON-- SHE TURNED THE AVALANCHE INTO SNOW FLAKES!"
I GUESS WE BLEW IT, HUH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT--I ACTUALLY PULLED IT OFF.
NOW, IF I CAN JUST MAKE PEACE WITH THE BOYS...
GRRRR...
GRRK-- WH!
Sigh
I BELIEVE MY RESPONSE SHOULD BE--YOU'RE WELCOME!
LATER...
WE'RE BACK!
I WAS REALLY UPSET WHEN KEEVER SENT ME ON THIS JOB SO CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS. BUT ACTUALLY. I. THINK THIS IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT.
END